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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/641,208	08/18/2000	Loc X. Phan	AT00085	7275

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EXAMINER

LUCCHESI, NICHOLAS D

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3764

DATE MAILED: 01/21/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/641,208

Applicant(s)

Phan

Examiner

Nick Lucchesi

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE three MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Sep 9, 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 19-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 19-38 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:

1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

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DETAILED ACTION

Withdrawl Of Indication Of Allowability

1. The previous indication of allowability of claims 19-38 has been withdrawn, in view of further consideration of the art of record. A new rejection follows.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 19-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chishti et al in view of Morrow et al.

Chishti et al disclose first, intermediate and final tooth positioning appliances 100 similar to that as claimed by applicant in these claims, as well as a method of repositioning teeth from an initial arrangement, to a final arrangement. Note that the appliances are polymeric shells, essentially the same as that claimed by applicant. Note also that Chishti et al disclose forming the appliances via the same method as that claimed by applicant, namely, providing a digital data set representing a modified tooth arrangement, controlling a fabrication machine based on the digital data set to produce a positive model of the modified tooth arrangement, and producing the dental appliance as a negative of the positive model. See col. 6 and col. 7.

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Chishti et al do not disclose coating the appliances with a lubricious composition.

Morrow et al disclose coating a polymeric mouthpiece with a lubricious composition, to increase the comfort to the wearer.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to coat the appliances of Chishti et al with a lubricious composition, as taught by Morrow et al, in view of the Morrow et al teaching that such a composition applied to a mouthpiece allows for greater comfort to the wearer.

With regard to claims 25-30, note that Morrow et al discloses substances which are considered to be functional equivalents of the coatings recited in these claims, and thus their use thereof with the Morrow appliance is considered to be an obvious matter of choice to one skilled in the art.

With regard to claims 32-37, note that Morrow et al contemplate spraying, dipping and pouring. The use of other methods such as electro-static discharge, baking and precoating, are considered to be obvious choices to one skilled in the art, desiring a particular characteristic of the appliance.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed 9/16/2002 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant bases arguments upon the assertion that it would not have been obvious to coat the mouthpieces of Chishti et al with a lubricious composition, because the mouthpieces of Chishti et al are used for moving teeth and thus would not work effectively.

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It is the examiner's position that the teaching of Morrow et al is to increase the comfort of the wearer of such a mouthpiece, by applying such a lubricious composition. Thus, one skilled in the art would recognize that such a composition could be applied to the exterior or the interior of the Chishti et al mouthpieces, if one wished to increase comfort while wearing them. The mouthpieces of Chishti et al would still be capable of moving teeth, as they fit rather snugly.

Applicant further argues that the proposed combination of Morrow et al and Chishti et al would not be obvious because Chishti et al requires the appliances to apply forces to the teeth, and thus the application of a lubricious composition would hinder these forces.

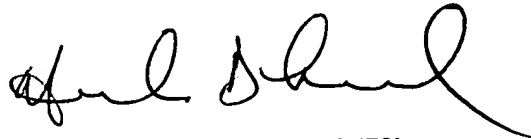
However, it is the examiner's opinion that the application of such a lubricious composition would be obvious because such application would overcome the problems described by Morrow et al, such as "dry mouth", which occurs from wearing the appliance over time, or from activity performed while wearing the appliance. It is the examiner's opinion that such a lubricant as disclosed by Morrow et al would do nothing to prevent the appliance from remaining on the teeth, but would rather serve to increase comfort within the oral cavity in general. Such a composition would prevent the appliance from sticking to the oral tissues, a problem solved by Morrow et al.

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5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nick Lucchesi whose telephone number is (703) 308-2698.


Nick Lucchesi

January 15, 2003


NICHOLAS D. LUCCHESI
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